

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) A tissue anchor comprising:

- a. an elongate tube having a central bore, a closed distal end and a proximal end, wherein said tube has at least ~~one~~ first and second ~~apertures angularly spaced about a circumference of the tube spaced proximally from said distal end;~~
- b. an elongate member having a portion sized for receipt and axial movement in said central bore between a first position and a second position, wherein said elongate member includes a longitudinal axis ~~and at least one anchor member attached to said portion; and~~
- c. a first anchor member attached to said portion of the elongate member and having a first free distal end carrying a first tissue-penetrating barb;
- d. a second anchor member attached to said portion of the elongate member and having a second free distal end carrying a second tissue-penetrating barb; and
- e. wherein said at least one first and second anchor members are has a free distal end carrying a tissue-penetrating barb and is configured and positioned so that when said portion of the elongate member is in said first position each of said at least one first and second anchor members is at least partially received in said elongate tube and when said portion of said elongate member is in said second position said at least one first anchor member projects through said at least one first aperture and extends transversely relative to said longitudinal axis with the first free distal end positioned outwardly of the elongate tube at a first angular orientation relative to said elongate tube, and said second anchor member projects through said second aperture and extends transversely relative to said longitudinal axis with the

second free distal end positioned outwardly of the elongate tube at a second angular orientation relative to said elongate tube, said first and second angular orientations being circumferentially spaced from one another about said elongate tube.

33. (Previously Presented) A tissue anchor according to claim 32, wherein said elongate tube has an outside diameter ranging from 0.5mm to 12mm.
34. (Previously Presented) A tissue anchor according to claim 33, wherein said outside diameter ranges from 1mm to 3mm.
35. (Currently Amended) A tissue anchor according to claim 32, ~~wherein said at least one anchor member includes four~~ further comprising third and fourth anchor members attached to said portion.
36. (Currently Amended) A tissue anchor according to claim 32, wherein each of said at least one first and second anchor members has a curved configuration when said portion is in said second position.

37-64. (Cancelled)

65. (Currently Amended) A tissue anchor according to claim 35, ~~wherein said at least one aperture includes four~~ further comprising third and fourth apertures, with one aperture being associated with each of the first, second, third, and fourth anchor members.
66. (Currently Amended) A tissue anchor according to claim 65, wherein each at least the first anchor member projects from its associated aperture when the elongate member is in its first position.

67. (Cancelled)
68. (Previously Presented) A tissue anchor according to claim 32, wherein the closed distal end of the elongate tube is adapted to be advanced into a volume of tissue to position the at least one anchor member for stabilizing deployment into the tissue.
69. (Cancelled)
70. (Previously Presented) A tissue anchor according to claim 32, wherein said at least one anchor member extends distally beyond a distal end of the elongate member when the elongate member is in its first position.
71. (Currently Amended) A tissue anchor according to claim 70, wherein said ~~at least one~~ first anchor member is curved when in an unbiased state.
72. (Currently Amended) A tissue anchor according to claim 71, wherein said ~~at least one~~ first anchor member is in its unbiased state when the elongate member is in its second position.
73. (Currently Amended) A tissue anchor according to claim 71, wherein said ~~at least one~~ first anchor member curves proximally when the elongate member is in its second position.
74. (Previously Presented) A tissue anchor according to claim 32, wherein said portion of the elongate member is sized for a close sliding fit within the central bore of the elongate tube.

75. (Currently Amended) A tissue anchor for stabilizing a tissue mass for surgical excision, comprising:
- a. an elongate tube having a central bore, a wall, a tapered distal portion that defines a closed distal end adapted to be advanced into the tissue mass, a ~~central bore, a wall, and~~ a plurality of apertures extending through the ~~wall~~tapered distal portion;
 - b. a manually controllable actuator carried by the elongate tube and comprising an elongate member sized for a close sliding fit within the central bore of the elongate tube, the actuator being moveable with respect to the elongate tube between a first position and a second position; and
 - c. a plurality of manually deployable anchor members, with one anchor member being associated with each aperture of the elongate tube, each of the anchor members being operatively connected to the actuator such that each anchor member assumes a retracted position when the actuator is in its first position and each anchor assumes an extended position when the actuator is in its second position, each anchor member in its retracted position having a major portion received within the central bore of the elongate tube, each anchor member in its extended position projecting outwardly from its associated aperture into the tissue mass and assuming a curved configuration to facilitate stabilization of the tissue mass.
76. (Previously Presented) A tissue anchor according to claim 75, wherein the apertures of the elongate tube are spaced proximally of the distal end.
77. (Cancelled)
78. (Previously Presented) A tissue anchor according to claim 75, wherein the actuator further comprises a ring carried adjacent a proximal end of the elongate member.

79. (Previously Presented) A tissue anchor according to claim 75, wherein the actuator further comprises a stop, the stop cooperating with the elongate tube to limit movement of the elongate member with respect to the elongate tube, thereby defining the second position of the actuator.
80. (Currently Amended) A tissue anchor for stabilizing a tissue mass for surgical excision, comprising:
- a. an elongate tube having a distal end adapted to be advanced into the tissue mass, a central bore, a wall, a tapered distal portion that defines a closed distal end, and a plurality of apertures extending through the wall tapered distal portion;
 - b. a manually controllable actuator carried by the elongate tube and comprising an elongate member slidably received within the central bore of the elongate tube, the actuator being moveable with respect to the elongate tube between a first position and a second position; and
 - c. a plurality of manually deployable anchor members, with one anchor member being associated with each aperture of the elongate tube, each of the anchor ~~means—members~~ being attached to the elongate member for movement therewith such that each anchor member assumes a retracted position when the actuator is in its first position and each anchor assumes an extended position when the actuator is in its second position, each anchor member in its retracted position having a major portion received within the central bore of the elongate tube, each anchor member in its extended position projecting outwardly from its associated aperture into the tissue mass and assuming a curved configuration to facilitate stabilization of the tissue mass.
81. (Previously Presented) A tissue anchor according to claim 80, wherein the elongate member is moved distally as the actuator moves from its first position to its second position.

82. (Previously Presented) A tissue anchor according to claim 75, wherein each anchor member projects from its associated aperture when the actuator is in its first position.
83. (Currently Amended) A tissue anchor for stabilizing a tissue mass for surgical excision, comprising:
- a. an elongate tube having a closed distal end, a central bore, a wall, a tapered distal portion that defines a closed distal end, and four apertures extending through the wall at locations spaced angularly about a circumference of the tapered distal portion;
 - b. a rod having a manually engageable member adjacent its proximal end and a length which is slidably received in the central bore of the elongate tube, the rod being moveable distally with respect to the elongate tube from a first position to a second position; and
 - c. four anchor members, with one anchor member being associated with each aperture of the elongate tube, each of the anchor members being connected to the rod for movement therewith such that each anchor member assumes a retracted position when the rod is in its first position and each anchor member assumes an extended position when the rod is in its second position, each anchor member in its retracted position having a majority of its length received within the central bore of the elongate tube, each anchor member in its extended position projecting outwardly from its associated aperture into the tissue mass and assuming a curved configuration to facilitate stabilization of the tissue mass.
84. (Previously Presented) A tissue anchor according to claim 83, wherein the apertures of the elongate tube are spaced proximally of the distal end.
85. (Previously Presented) A tissue anchor according to claim 83, wherein the rod further comprises a stop, the stop cooperating with the elongate tube to limit

movement of the rod with respect to the elongate tube, thereby defining the second position of the rod.

86. (Previously Presented) A tissue anchor according to claim 83, wherein the anchor members are attached to the rod and extend distally beyond a distal end of the rod.
87. (Previously Presented) A tissue anchor according to claim 83, wherein a small portion of each anchor member projects from its associated aperture when the rod is in its first position.
88. (Previously Presented) A method of stabilizing a tissue mass using the tissue anchor of claim 83, comprising:
 - a. with the rod in its first position, advancing the distal end of the elongate tube into the tissue mass;
 - b. thereafter, advancing the rod distally to its second position, thereby forcing the anchor members outwardly from the elongate tube and into the tissue mass to stabilize the tissue mass; and
 - c. thereafter, drawing the tissue anchor proximally to apply tension to the tissue mass.
89. (Cancelled)
90. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 88, further comprising leaning the elongate tube and the elongate rod after the anchor members are deployed in the tissue mass to facilitate surgical removal of the tissue mass.
91. (Previously Presented) A method of removing a tissue mass from a tissue using the tissue anchor of claim 83, comprising:
 - a. with the anchor members in their retracted positions, advancing the distal end of the elongate tube into the tissue mass;

- b. thereafter, advancing the rod distally to its second position, thereby forcing the anchor members outwardly from the elongate tube and into the tissue mass;
 - c. thereafter, stabilizing the tissue mass with the tissue anchor while cutting the tissue; and
 - d. removing the tissue mass.
92. (Currently Amended) A tissue anchor for stabilizing a tissue mass for surgical excision, comprising:
- a. ~~an manually graspable~~ elongate tube having a distal end, a central bore, a wall, a tapered distal portion that defines a closed distal end, and four apertures extending through the wall~~tapered distal portion, the tapered distal portion elongate tube being manually graspable and adapted configured to~~ enable a length of the elongate tube to be inserted into the tissue mass;
 - b. a rod having a length which is slidably received in the central bore of the elongate tube, the rod being moveable distally with respect to the elongate tube from a first position; and
 - c. four anchor members, with one anchor member being associated with each aperture of the elongate tube, each of the anchor members being connected to the rod for movement therewith such that a majority of the length of each anchor member is received within the central bore of the elongate tube when the rod is in its first position and each anchor member moves outwardly from its associated aperture into the tissue mass to assume a curved configuration within the tissue mass to facilitate stabilization of the tissue mass when the rod is moved distally.

93. (Previously Presented) A method of removing a tissue mass from a tissue, comprising:
- a. providing a tissue anchor comprising an elongate tube having a distal end and a plurality of apertures; a manually controllable actuator; and a plurality of anchor members operatively connected to the actuator;
 - b. advancing the distal end of the elongate tube into the tissue mass to a desired location;
 - c. thereafter, manually moving the actuator to deploy the anchor members outwardly from the elongate tube through the apertures, thereby forcing the anchor members into the tissue mass;
 - d. thereafter, stabilizing the tissue mass with the tissue anchor while cutting the tissue; and
 - e. removing the tissue mass.
94. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 93, wherein stabilizing the tissue mass includes drawing the tissue anchor proximally, thereby tensioning the tissue mass.
95. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 93, further comprising leaning the elongate tube and the elongate rod after the anchor members are deployed in the tissue mass to facilitate surgical removal of the tissue mass.
96. (Currently Amended) A method of stabilizing a tissue mass during a medical procedure using a tissue anchor which includes an elongate tube having a distal end and a plurality of apertures; a manually controllable actuator; and a plurality of anchor members operatively connected to the actuator, the method comprising:
- a. grasping the elongate tube of the tissue anchor and advancing the distal end of the elongate tube into the tissue mass to a desired location;
 - b. thereafter, manually moving the actuator to deploy the anchor members outwardly from the elongate tube through the apertures, with one anchor

member advancing through each aperture such that the anchor members curve outwardly from the apertures, thereby extending the anchor members into the tissue mass;

- c. thereafter, manually grasping the tissue anchor and drawing the tissue anchor proximally to stabilize tension the tissue mass.

97. (Canceled)

98. (Currently Amended) A tissue anchor for stabilizing a tissue mass for surgical excision, comprising:

- a. an elongate tube having a distal end adapted to be advanced into the tissue mass, a central bore, a wall, a tapered distal portion that defines a closed distal end, and a plurality of apertures extending through the wall tapered distal portion;
- b. a manually controllable actuator carried by the elongate tube and being moveable with respect to the elongate tube between a first position and a second position, the actuator including a stop that cooperates with the elongate tube to limit movement of the elongate member with respect to the elongate tube, thereby defining the second position of the actuator; and
- c. a plurality of manually deployable anchor members, with one anchor member being associated with each aperture of the elongate tube, each of the anchor members being operatively connected to the actuator such that each anchor member assumes a retracted position when the actuator is in its first position and each anchor assumes an extended position when the actuator is in its second position, each anchor member in its retracted position having a major portion received within the central bore of the elongate tube, each anchor member in its extended position projecting outwardly from its associated aperture into the tissue mass and assuming a curved configuration to facilitate stabilization of the tissue mass.

99. (Previously Presented) A method of stabilizing a tissue mass using the tissue anchor of claim 83, comprising:
- a. with the rod in its first position, advancing the distal end of the elongate tube into the tissue mass;
 - b. thereafter, advancing the rod distally to its second position, thereby forcing the anchor members outwardly from the elongate tube and into the tissue mass to stabilize the tissue mass; and
 - c. thereafter, leaning the elongate tube and the elongate rod to facilitate surgical removal of the tissue mass.